

efforts, dieticians, for instance, and I told you, beware, that that issue is a very complex one and you must move slowly, and I think after the bill got advanced, many of you found out that I was right about that, that nutritionists across the state were upset and concerned, and that that is not an easy issue. I am again cautioning you, on licensure issues, on scope of practice issues, caution is the word, because you are dealing with an area that has a potential harmful effect and you had better be careful before you take that plunge. Not very many states have felt confident enough to do that, and at this time I don't have that confidence to move forward in this area. Now, times may change and down the road that may not be the case, but at this moment today, I don't think there is an urgency or a rush to move forward with this legislation. That is the thing that a lot of people have been pushing, the bill has been up three years, it has been up since '78, we have got to move forward, we can't keep sitting on the thing. Well, frankly, you know, that rush, that slowness to action that sometimes we take is the best way to approach an issue. Take it slow. Take it cautiously. Be sure what you do before you pass the bill because you don't want to get into a situation where you error and some people are hurt as a result. Now, at this point, I would suggest that that is the course of action to take, and I know that many of you are considering which way to go on it. Now, at the same time, I know that Senator Hoagland has an amendment to deal with some of the most fearful of the drugs that are being considered and it would really make my confidence level go up a great deal if the Hoagland amendment was adopted. It would seem to me that the bill would be worth pursuing and we would feel confident in the quality of the optometrists to deal with the situation. But I don't think there is any rush at this point generally with this piece of legislation. It isn't as though we have fallen behind other states. It isn't as though there is not access in the rural areas of this state to eye care. The comparison has always been with the optometrists, ophthalmologists, as Senator Johnson said. There are physicians across this state capable of handling these different drugs and utilizing their expertise in providing that eye care. So that access question is not a very valid one, in my estimation.

SENATOR CARSTEN: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President. That has been a